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water in the Pechipara Reservoir should be published, so that the people might be enabled to ascertain whether there would be sufficient water for cultivation, (5) that at the end of Thulam the major tanks might be filled with water, arrangements being made for using the same at the proper time, and (6) that the sale of tank beds should be stopped.

The Member then presented a memorial on the subject, signed by about a thousand people, for the consideration of the Government.

The Kodayar channels should be opened on the 15th Medom of each year for the supply of water for lands in Nanjinad.

The Kodayar channels should be opened on the 15th Medom of each year, and the distribution of water should be under the control of the Revenue authorities.

Mr. K. A. Aiyamperumal Pillai (Member, Tovala taluk) supported the views of the previous speaker on the subject.

Mr. A. M. Kumara Pillai, B. A., B. L. (Member, T. I. C. Nagercoil) said that the distribution and regulation of water from the Kodayar channels should be in conformity with the existing system of cultivation in South Travancore and the period required for the growth of the crops. The two crops, Kanni and Kumbhom, took 300 days, and unless the cultivation was begun in Medam, the two harvests could not be finished by Makaram when the channels were closed. To begin cultivation, water was required. Before the completion of the project, there were only 15,000 acres under cultivation; but the area had since gone up to 45,000 acres. Most of the tanks which supplied water were sold, and in the few major tanks which remained, there was absolutely no water in Medom, as the Irrigation authorities took great care to drain off the water in the tanks when the channels were closed. The result was that one of the crops had to be given up if there was no rain and if Pechipara water was not given for starting cultivation in Medom.

The Member further said that *thozhi* cultivation required a greater number of days than *podi* and that without water neither *podi* nor *thozhi* could be carried on in Medom and that water from the channels was required only if there was no rain in Medom.

Dewan.—When did you begin cultivation last time?

The Member replied that the cultivation was started with Pechipara water about the 4th of June, with the result that much damage was caused, as the rains set in as soon as the cultivation was started. The total loss was estimated to be 13 and odd lacs of Rupees. This had materially affected the Kumbhom crop. The Member also pointed out that, by using seed which could be harvested in a short time, the yield was found to be miserable and that water was required in Medom for the cultivation of the seed used at present.

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The Member then said that it might be argued that the Government wanted time to effect repairs to the channels and that he was prepared to grant that.

Dewan:—Not only that. The idea has always been that the water of Pechipara was intended to *supplement* rain.

The Member replied that he took objection to that view on two grounds, (1) that the Government had encouraged people to convert all the gardens into the paddy lands, and (2) that if the water in the Reservoir was not sufficient for the existing cultivation, the water should not be given to the new Erattakara Kaul. In his opinion, the Pechipara project itself was useless without rain.

Dewan:—If there is not a sufficient quantity of rainfall in one year, the water in the Reservior will not be sufficient for that year unless the Reservoir is enlarged. This is under consideration.

The Member continued and said that he wanted water to *start* cultivation only when there was enough water in the Reservoir, and that if there was not enough water the ryots were prepared to risk it. As for the time required to repair the channels, the Member said that it could be finished in two months, especially when labour was available after the Kumbhom harvest. They were prepared to undertake the repairs if the P. W. D. paid the cost.

Dewan:—You would not know where the repairs are needed.

The Member said that the advantages to the people by opening the channels on the 15th Medom were very great. If the 15th Vycasy be the opening period, the people would lose immensely. He also proposed that the sale of tank beds should be discontinued, in view to the circumstance that, if they were converted into paddy lands, the water available would not suffice for all the lands. As regards the distribution of water, the Member said that, on mature consideration, he thought that it was better to leave the present practice alone, but he wished that the Irrigation Officers were more sympathetic towards the ryots.

The distribution of water should be under the control of the Tahsildars.

Mr. Sivasubramania Pillai (Member, Eraniel Taluk) said that he fully supported the views of the previous speaker and that he had nothing more to add.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

42. The Government should establish Agricultural Banks in the State to supplement the work done by the Agricultural Department.

Mr. C. Raman Tampi, B. A. & B. L. (Member Quilon taluk) said that the Agricultural Loans Act as it stood did not apply to persons who were engaged in the cultivation

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